TO ALL DEAR FRIENDS & BRETHREN

In the Everlasting

TRUTH & COVENANT

OF THE

Almighty Jehovah

Blessed for evermore.

WE the *Prisoners* of the Lord, and for the *Testimony* of *Christ Jesus*, do bear in our *remembrance* with *dearest Salutations* of perfect *love*, all our *suffering Brethren* every where, and also the whole *Flock* of our Fathers tender Love, whom he hath *elected* and *chosen* in his own secret Counsel before the world began; Dearly and well beloved, our very *Souls* this day, are deeply *affected* with the *Cause* of *God*, and our *persons* at this time are *engaged* in these *Bonds*, for the *Testimony* of the same; and truly, in *Soul*, *Body*, and *Spirit*, are we offered up to the perpetual loss of all, that the Name of the *Lord*, and his *saving Truth*, may be testified unto, in *faithfulness* unto all the world; and in the Lord our *hearts* are *resolved* in the confidence of his Spirit, to *suffer* the greatest of *Afflictions* and *Persecutions*, rather than *forfeit* or *loose*, one grain of this so blessed a *Testimony* now trusted with us, and for which, we now *suffer* these *Bonds*: And unto *faithfulness* herein, We find that the Lord our God, daily *increaseth* our *strength* and *boldness*, our *patience* and *long suffering*, and doubleth his *Spirit* of *Power* and *Wisdom* upon us, that we may never *faint* in *Trial*; and we labour to be armed in our *inward man*, with whatsoever may *uphold* us, and *defend* us in this day of our *Affliction*; even that

 our

our *faith* and *patience*, our *holineſs* and *meekneſs*, our *long ſuffering*, and love to *enemies*; and all *Heavenly Vertues* may be compleated in us, and poſſeſſed of us, till our God take *Vengeance* upon the wrath of our *Adverſaries*, and deliver his (now) *poor deſpiſed* and *oppreſſed people*; for theſe *Vertues* are the *armour* with which we delight to be cloathed; theſe are our *weapons* with which we chuſe to be *defended*, and this muſt be our final *Victory*, when the *faith* and *patience*, the *meekneſs* and *long ſuffering*, and *heavenly Vertues of Chriſt Jeſus* in us, have exceeded in *meaſure*, and *ſuperabounded* in *effect*, all the *unbelief* and *impatiency*, the *enmity* and *ungodlineſs*, in all that hate us; *Love* ſhall overcome *wrath* and *envy*; *Patience* ſhall ſubdue *rigorous Perſecutors*, and *hatefull workers*; the *very God* that dwells with us, ſhall *condemn* and *confound* the *wicked one*, with all his *might*, and *power*, and *malice*, and *Perſecution*, cruel *Impoſition* on tender Conſciences, and *Oppreſſion* and *Injuſtice* ſhall be no more: And this is that *Victory*, for which we *ſpiritually War*, and theſe and no other, are the *weapons* with which we do contend; and the *Cauſe* is *God's* in which we are *ingaged*, and for which we *ſuffer* this preſent day.

Brethren, we hope ye are all *like-minded* with us, and that this ſame *Cauſe of God*, his *Truth* and *Righteouſneſs* is *fixed* before you, and is your *aime* and *mark*, and that it is alike *dear* and *precious* in your eye, and that ye are *Armed* with the ſame *Armour* of God's heavenly *Vertues*; It's the *breathings* of our life to the *Father*, that the whole *Church* of *Chriſt*, and every *Member* thereof may be kept *faithful*, to hold forth the *holy Teſtimony of Jeſus*, by *ſuffering* in this great *day of Trial*. The *Teſtimony* of which, we have *heard* and *learned*, *believed* and *received*, from God the Father into all our hearts, is ſo precious to us, in it's evidence of *Peace*, and *Comfort*, and *Juſtification*, and *Salvation*, in Eternal life in our inward man, that we compare no *afflictions*, nor *preſent ſufferings* of our outward man, to the *price* and *vertue* thereof. For we can *ſay* in the verity of our *Souls*, how ever it ſhall go with our *outward man*, in reſpect of *Tribulations*, and *Perſecutions*, yet in our *inward man*, we poſſeſs the *Peace*, and *Comfort*, and *Salvation* of the everlaſting God; and to bear forth the *Teſtimony* of this in our age to the world, even of that *Love* and *Life*, *Mercy*, *Juſtification* and *Salvation* which we have received, we can forgo *Liberty*, *Life*, and *all*: For this is *our duty* to which we are *called*, and the *end* for which we were *born*, to bear *witneſs* to the *Truth*, and for the *holding forth* of this *witneſs*, we are given up in *Soul*, *Body*, and *Spirit*, *to ſuffer the loſs of all*, rather than to *looſe* this *Teſtimony-bearing* to the view of the world.

Wherefore, we *beſeech* and *exhort* all of you, that have taſted of the loving

loving kindneſs of our God, That ye be faithful and valiant this day in the Cauſe of God; not fearing the fury of the ungodly, nor the threats of enemies, nor the terrors of this world, nor ſeeking to ſave your own lives; but in the *faith* and *patience*, preſſing forward in the race of Righteouſneſs, till *Mercy*, *Peace*, *Juſtice*, and *true Judgment*, run down as a ſtream, willing to *ſuffer* the *loſs of all*, that *Truth* and *Righteouſneſs* may live upon earth, and the *worſhip* of the *true God* be *exalted*, and all the contrary *overturned*, and this is the *reward* of all the *Saints Afflictions*. Be *faithful* in your *Trials*, let *Eſtates*, *Relations*, *Life*, and *all go*, rather than the cauſe of *Truth* and *Righteouſneſs* be diminiſhed of it's Glory, by the *unfaithfulneſs* of any this day. Surely our *hearts* are *zealous* for this matter, and we are preſſed in *Spirit*, to *encourage* all the *Lords people* to put on all *holy confidence* in this day, and to caſt away *all unbelief*, *doubtings* and *fears* of this *world*, and to maintain the *Truth* of *God's worſhip* in the *aſſemblings* of his people together, in the *ſtrength* and *power* of the *Lord Jeſus Chriſt*; even *to live in it*, and *to dye for it*, to enjoy God's *pure Worſhip*, and to *ſuffer the loſſe of all*, if called thereunto.

We know you are not *ignorant* concerning *this Cauſe of God*, which we thus *aſſert*, and *exhort* you to be *faithful* in, It's no other than the *Teſtimony* of a *pure Conſcience* towards our Creator, and that every *perſon* ſhould *follow Chriſt*, and *obey him*, and walk in the *light* and *life* of his Spirit, which he hath revealed in the *heart*; & that *God* ſhould be *feared* and *worſhiped* in a clean Conſcience, and that the *Salvation* of God may be *teſtified* of; *This* and *no other* is the *Cauſe of God*, in which our *Souls* and *Bodies* are ingaged, we know no *Cauſe* upon earth, worth our *Afflictions* and *Sufferings*, nor for which we will contend with any, ſave *for the Salvation of God*, and that his *Juſtice* and *Mercy*, his *Truth* and *Righteouſneſs*, his *Way* and *Worſhip* may be *Exalted* upon earth, and all the contrary *ſubdued* by his mighty Power. This is the very *cauſe* compared, to which *our mortality* is not to be accounted, even that we may behold God's *Salvation* going forth in the *Teſtimony* of it to all Nations, and that *Nations* and *Peoples*, may injoy *Juſtice* and *Truth*, *Liberty* and *Freedom*, in the pure worſhip of the living God; **This is the Cauſe that muſt live**, [the Lord hath ſpoken it] **though for it we may die**; for our *All* is adventured upon the ſame.

But whileſt our *hearts* are pouring forth daily *Prayers* towards God, and *Exhortations* towards you, that you may be *faithful* to give *publick Teſtimony* to the *Name*, *Truth*, and *Salvation* of God; our *Souls* alſo deſire that you all may *eat* and *drink* of that *ſpiritual food*, which will cauſe your inward man to grow, and that your *own hearts* may be kept *pure*

and *undefiled* in his *Presence*, and that the *Seed of Life*, with the *fruits* and *blessings* thereof may fill your own Souls; that while you are striving by *patience* and *long suffering* against your *outward enemies*, no *inward enemy* of *evil lusts* or *affections*, *strife* or *divisions*, or any thing of this *world* may enter into your bosoms to defile you.

Dearly Beloved alwayes have a *special regard* unto your *standing* as to *God-ward*, and what increase of *Life*, *Love*, *Peace* and *Comfort*, ye daily receive in your spiritual; man knowing, that by the inward *vertue* of the Fathers *presence*, the *Peace* and *Joy* of God in your *inward man* dayly received from him, by *that* must you stand in *strength* and *dominion* against all enemies *within* and *without*. Therefore, feel the *Seed of God*, and it's *growth* and *increase* in your own hearts, that you may have perfect *Peace* and *Union* with God in Spirit, while ye are bearing *publick Testimony*, by *doing* or *suffering* for his *Truth* and *Name*.

J. C. And **Brethren**, our *hearts* and *Souls* reach unto, and dearly *Salute you all*; for while we remember the *Lord* and his *goodness* unto us, we cannot forget you, no not the *least babe* and *little one* amongst you all, for what are *we*, or *you*, or *all* of us together, joyntly, or apart; but what we are in his *life*, *love* and *peace*, that endureth for ever? whose *Mercies*, *Glory*, *Riches* and *Goodness*, as so many sparkling *Diamonds* and *Jems* of Value, adorn our *Crown* and make it *Glorious*, and every one doth shine with *Lustre* and *Beauty* in the eyes of all that behold us; and whilest we are so Adorned, may we not say, our *cloathings* are *white* and *fine*, such as are in *Kings Houses*, and our *attire* no other than what becometh *Princes*? and what ever we have been it matters not, except to set forth the *favour* and *goodness* of him, that hath so raised us from the *dunghil* amongst the *Beggars*, to sit upon *Thrones* in Glory with *Princes*? and to shew how the *Angel of Gods presence* hath *saved*, and taken us from our *begging state*, at the *Rich man's gate*, like to many *Lazaruses*, *bruised* and *wounded*, from *head* to *foot*, and carried us into *Abrahams bosom*, where we are at Rest, praising our *God*, and our *King* of Riches and Mercy for ever.

Dear Friends, we write unto you *all*, that *you* may partake with us of the same *life*, *glory*, *rest* and *peace*, and not only *drops* and *sprinklings* of the same, but *full measure*, *heaped up*, and *running over*. For *you* are *our witnesses*, that *we*, with the rest of our **Faithful brethren**, have not withheld from you, the whole *Counsel of God* revealed to *us*, and in *us*, according to the *good pleasure of our* Lord and *Master*; neither have we

kept

kept back from declaring *to you* his *Mind*, and the *myſteries* of his *Kingdom*, yea, his *hidden myſteries*, (which have been hid in God ſince the world began) and that *in ſeaſon*, and *out of ſeaſon*, at all *times* and *places*, as he hath given us opportunities, and required us ſo to do; and that not in words, which man's wiſdom teacheth, (leſt thereby we ſhould make void the Croſs of Chriſt), but in *plainneſs* and *ſimplicity*, that *God's Witneſs* in every *Conſcience* might anſwer us, and we unto *every Conſcience* might be made manifeſt in God's ſight, as we know we are this day, and we have our reward, from the Lord of the Harveſt that ſent us forth; and this adds to our *comfort* in this day, that we were *faithful* unto our God in what he committed to our charge: And now, what is *ours*, and our *Brethrens reward*, and *Crown* of rejoycing, but this, That you ſtand *faithful* in this time of *Trial?* for you know we have not been like unto thoſe who have begotten into the *airy Spirit*, that ſo you might be alwayes kept in the uncertainty, *ever learning*, but *never get ability* to *learn* and *perform* what you have been *taught*; for what we have *received* from *Chriſt*, by vertue of his *Reſurrection* and *Aſſention*, is *perfect*, and hath been Miniſtred unto you, for the perfecting of you *all*, with the reſt of the *Sanctified ones* in *Chriſt Jeſus*, until you all come to a *perfect man* in Chriſt, even unto the *fulneſs of the meaſure of the ſtature of Chriſt*. For which we pray, and deſire of our God and Father for you all.

Let **your Meetings** be in *God's fear* and *Counſel*, as at other times, never *heeding* what man can *do* unto you; but ſtill be you *all followers* of that which is *good*, and then, who can, or ſhall *harm* you? Keep in the *Love* to, and *unity* with *that of God in all*: Let the *witneſs* of God in all anſwer your *words* and *actions*, rendering to none *evil* for *evil*, but overcoming the *evil* with the *good*; ſo ſhall you be known to be the *ſervants* of the *Living God*, and *followers* of the *Lamb* as dear children. And be *terrified* in *nothing*, as from any of the ſons of men, that can *befall you*; for all *your hairs* are numbred, and not *one* ſhall fall, without *Gods Providence*; neither ſhall the *wrath of the wicked* be *unbounded*, but what ever turns not to *his praiſe*, that he will *reſtrain*, and the **Day of your Deliverance** haſteth; only look not you *out*, but keep *cloſe* unto the *Lord*, with *your* eyes only *towards him*, and not *upon*, or *unto* any *temporal*, or *viſible thing*; but alone unto the *Lord God of Life*, and unto the *meaſure of himſelf* made manifeſt *in your own hearts*; for unto *That* you were *directed* at the *beginning*, and in *It* is *your ſafety* and *preſervation* unto the *end*.

J. P.

J. P. And Dear Brethren, the *Lord God Almighty*, who is our *alone Salvation*, having laid the thoughts of the *Cauſe* of *our ſufferings* near unto the *Secrets* of his *own Soul*, uttereth *his Voice* out of *Sion*, to you *his Children*, in his City *Jeruſalem*, ſaying, Stand up ye *babes* of my *bleſſings*, and *you ſons* and *daughters* of *my love*, Gird, Gird on Strength in this day of *my battel*; for loe, *My Banner* is over you, *My Standard* is with you, *My Enſigne* is diſplaid amongſt you, and *My everlaſting Power* and *Omnipotency* attends you: And it ſhall *not fail you*, I will *not leave you* in the *day* of *Adverſity*, nor *forſake you* in the time of *Captivity*; for I have Choſen you, I have Called you, I have Purchaſed you, after the travail of my Soul for *you*; And *Blood*, even the *everlaſting blood* of the *Covenant* of *my life* was paid as a Ranſome for *you*; and now you are no more *your Own*, but *Mine*; and I cannot be *Hid*, nor *Separated from you*, but as *I am faithful*, I will *be with you*; as *you* have had me *your God* in all *your Tribulations* and *ſufferings*, wherein I did bear both *you*, and *your Griefs*, and all *your Afflictions* in the yearning Bowels of my Tenderneſs; which yet I will *Break*, I will *Break*, I will *Break*, more *infinitely* open unto you, which ſhall *melt*, and *diſſolve you*, and make you *ſtream* to me, as I am *in flameing ſtreams* of *love* and *life* towards you; I will *reach you* in *your Holes*; *Bolts*, nor *bars of Braſs* or *Iron*, nor *walls* like Mountains ſhall ſhut *me* from *you*; but in *your Denns* and *Dungeons* I will come in *among you*, and walk in the midſt *of you*, and you ſhall know that I am the *Comforter* of your Hearts, and the *Rejoycer* and *Gladder* of your Spirits, in all the times of *your needs*: And whilſt *the Task* is upon *your Necks*, and the *oppreſſive Burdens* upon *your Backs*, and I bearing *both you*, and *your Burdens* over the *Raging Seas*, that are *angry* at my Voice, and *troubled* at the Breathings of *my life*: I will *trouble* the *Hoſts* of the *Philiſtims*, their *Horſes* ſhall *fail them*, their *Chariots* ſhall *not ſtand* in *any ſtead* unto them, for I will *Break the Wheels* and the *Axeltrees*, and *they ſhall fall*, they *ſhall fall*, they *ſhall fall*, I the *Jehovah* of *Iſrael*, the *mighty God of little Jacob* have *ſpoken* it, & it ſhall ſurely *come to paſs*, and *you* ſhall *be delivered* by the Hand of *my Power* ſaith the Lord. And therefore *ſing you Lambs*, and *Rejoyce you my little tender babes* in that I have *Travelled* for *you*, and *born* and *brought you forth* unto the *day* of my glory, in the *Glory* and the *Excellency* thereof, to witneſs *my Name* of *Power*, which will ſcatter all the chaff that is heaped up as *Mountains* againſt you; that *you*, whom I have *planted*, may *proſper* as a *fruitful Vineyard*, That the abundance of the fruits of *bleſſedneſs*, in the power of *my Righteouſneſs*, may be brought forth in *you*, to *your Joy*, and *mine Honour*, even for ever.

Ah

Ah Brethren, our very *Hearts* and *Souls* are *overcome*, and *ravished*, whilst we consider the *endless love*, and *everlasting riches* of the *favours* and *mercies* of our FATHER towards *us*; and what he hath *ready* in his *Hand* to deal *bountifully* unto us; yet but *a little*, but *a little*, and he will *give it*, and make the *emptiest Vessel* as an *over-running River*, whose Banks cannot contein the Streams for fulness. It is *his love*, *his love*, even his *endless everlasting Love* that *over-powers* us, which is not conteinable *within us*, but must *run*, and *flow*, from the Movings of the great *Oceans*, as the *swiftest streams* into your *tender bosomes*, that *you* may be refreshed *in us*, in which the Answer will return into *our Bowels*, and *our Joy* will thereby be *augmented*, and *increased*: And we trust in the pure *living sense* of all, our *hearts* shall be always *full* of the *praise* of our God, who in all his *blessed works*, is worthy of *all Honour*, and everlasting *Thanksgiving*, and *Glory*, even of us, and all his *Saints* and *Children* for evermore; who, *in him*, are *yours* to serve, both *Him*, and *You*, in *doing* and *suffering*, whatsoever is his good pleasure concerning us: And in him, *everlasting Blessings* and *Peace* be multiplied to you all. Amen.

Newgate Prison, the 12th. of the 4th. Month 1662. *E.B. J.C. J.P.*

F.H. The *Cogitations* of *my heart* have been *many*, *deep*, and *ponderous*, some *Moneths*, *Weeks* and *Dayes*, concerning *his People*, which he hath raised to bear *Testimony* unto his Name, in this the day of his Power: And Intercession hath been made often for them to the Lord, and a patient waiting to know his *Mind* concerning them for the time to come, which often I received Satisfaction in, as to my self; but yet still something I was drawn by the Lord to *wait for*, that I might *comfort* and *strengthen* his *Flock* by an *assured Testimony*. And while I was waiting out of all Visible things, and quite out of the World, in my Spirit, and my heart upon nothing but the Living God, the Lord *opened* the *springs* of the *great Deep*, and *overflowed* my whole Heart with *Life* and *Love*, and my *Eyes* were as a Fountain, because of *tears* of *Joy*, because of his Heritage: Of whom he shewed me, and spake unto me, in a full fresh living Power, and a holy full Testimony; so that my heart was ravished therewith, with Joy unspeakable, and I was out of the Body with God, in his Heavenly Paradise; Where I saw, and felt things Unutterable, beyond all demonstration, or speech. At last the Life closed with my Understanding, and my spirit listened unto him; And the everlasting God said,

ſaid, *Shall I hide any thing from them that ſeek my face in Righteouſneſs?* Nay, *I will manifeſt it to them that fear me:* I will ſpeak, Do thou liſten, and publiſh it amongſt all my People, that they may be Comforted, and thou Satisfied. And thus ſaid the Living God of Heaven and Earth.

Upon the 28th. of the 3d. Month, 1662.

The *Sun* ſhall leave its ſhining *Brightneſs*, and ceaſe to give light to the World; and the *Moon* ſhall be altogether *Darkneſs*, and give no light unto the Night; the *Stars* ſhall ceaſe to know their *Office*, or *Place*; My Covenant with *Day* and *Night*, *Times* and *Seaſons* ſhall ſooner come to *an end*, than the Covenant I have made with this People (into which they are entred with me) ſhall *End*, or *be Broken*, and *my Word* is Unchangeable; yea, though the *powers of Darkneſs*, and *Hell* combine againſt them, and the *Jawes of Death* open its mouth, yet I will deliver them, and lead them through all; I will Confound their *Enemies*, as I did in *Jacob*, and Scatter them, as I did in *Iſrael*, in the dayes of Old; I will take *their Enemies*, and I will hurle them hither, and thither from me, even as ſtones are hurled out of a Sling; and the memorial of *this Nation*, which is holy unto me, ſhall Never be Rooted out, but ſhall Live through Ages, as A cloud of Witneſſes in Generations to come. I have brought them to the *birth*, I have brought *them forth*, I have *ſwadled them*, and they are *Mine*; I will *nouriſh* them, and carry *them* as on *Eagles wings*; and though Clouds gather againſt them, I will make my way Through them, and though darkneſs gather together on an heap, and *Tempeſts* gender, I will Scatter them as with an Eaſt wind, and Nations ſhall know they are my Inheritance, and they ſhall know I am the Living God, who will plead their Cauſe withall that *Riſe up in Oppoſition* againſt them.

These Words are Holy, Faithful, Eternal, Good, and True. Bleſſed are they that Hear and Believe unto the End. And becauſe of them no ſtrength was left in me for a while; but at laſt, my Heart was filled with Joy, even as when the Ark of God was brought from the houſe of *Obed Edom*, when *David* danced before it for Gladneſs, and *Iſrael* ſhouted for Joy.

Fran. Howgill.

THE END.